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“THE APOSTOLIC WAY”

“WITH MY OWN EYES”

(2 Peter 1:16-18)

Intro ... What a place to begin the New Year ... 2 Peter chapter one verses 16-18. These three verses focus our attention upon some of those **critical things** Peter said he would help us remember forever. Here's how they read ...

TODAY'S KEY SCRIPTURE ... 2 Peter 1:16-18

“We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty.”

For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying ...

*‘This is my Son, whom I love;
with him I am well pleased.’*

We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.”

Two Key Phrases jump right out at me:

*“We were **EYEWITNESSES** to his majesty” (and)
“We ourselves **HEARD** this voice.”*

In those verses, Peter is sharing a '**Powerful Personal Testimony.**'

*‘I was **THERE** ...
‘I **SAW** what I saw and I **HEARD** what I heard.’*

Peter, of course, is referring to his experience (with James and John) on the Mount of Transfiguration when they saw Jesus in His Divine Glory; when his clothes became dazzling white and there appeared with him Moses and Elijah (two of the greatest of the Old Testament Saints) and they heard the voice of the Father speaking to them out of heaven itself those never to be forgotten words:

*“This is my Son, whom I love. With Him I am well pleased!
Listen to Him!” (Gospel of Mark)*

The account is recorded in Matthew 17 and Mark 9 and in Luke 9.

All three gospel accounts place this event just a few days after Peter had triumphantly identified Jesus as ...

"The Christ, the Messiah" (and Matthew reports Peter added) ...
"The Son of the Living God."

Here was the Heavenly Father Himself verifying what Peter had said. Until his dying day, Peter would say that it was as if it had happened only yesterday ...

It was a vivid moment captured by the camera of his mind.

Peter's experience and Peter's alluding to that experience here in his letter to the churches leads me to the formation of ...

TODAY'S KEY CONCEPT ...

Our Faith is built upon **PERSONAL TESTIMONY**.

The Christian Faith is **not** primarily a set of propositions or insights into the Will and the Ways of God ... It is not the sum total of the best notions of human beings concerning the way that human beings should live.

It is not a system of religious activities and behaviors that will earn man favor with God. It did not arise from the enlightened ponderings of the world's most spiritual men.

At the very heart of it ... the Christian Faith is built upon **Personal Testimony**.

It arises from men and women who personally encountered the Living God and lived to tell about it!

We have time this morning for just **Three Examples**:

An Old Testament One, a New Testament One and a Current Day One ...

* Think of **MOSES** as your **Old Testament Example ...**

The burning bush – the miracles in Egypt – the opening of the Red Sea – the manna in the desert – the meetings with God on the Mountain.

Moses could say:

'I was there – I saw what I saw and I heard what I heard.'

That Moses had met with God there could be no doubt ... the glow on his face when he came down from the mountain was such that the people could not even bear to look upon him – It was like looking at the face of God Himself! How do you not listen to one who had spoken face to face with **The Living God**?

The **First Five Books** of the Bible (written by Moses) all have that 'Glow' upon them. They were written by the one who indeed '*met with God face to face*' and who brought from that encounter Divine Truth.

* Think of the **APOSTLES** as your **New Testament Example** ...

Peter and John (when interrogated/threatened by the Jewish Sanhedrin) said ...

*"We cannot help speaking about the things
that we have seen and heard."*

(Acts 4:20)

Peter and John were not interested in debating theology or swapping philosophy with those Jewish Leaders – they were only interested in '*telling their story*' ... being '*witnesses*' to the incredible events they had observed. The entire New Testament is based upon those '*Apostolic Accounts*.'

* Think now of your **OWN STORY** as your **Current Day Example** ...

*"The Almighty God has **SAVED** me from condemnation."*

*"The Almighty God **WALKS** with me every single day."*

*"I publicly **CONFESS** my faith in Him every single year."*

Final Thought ...

A '**powerful personal testimony**' is one of the most **POTENT** spiritual weapons a believer can **POSSESS**.

It **CONFIRMS** God's Truth to you and it **CONVEYS** God's Truth to those who **HEAR** you.

Be sure you **WIELD** it regularly!

